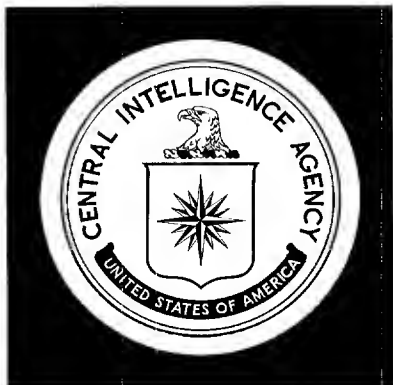


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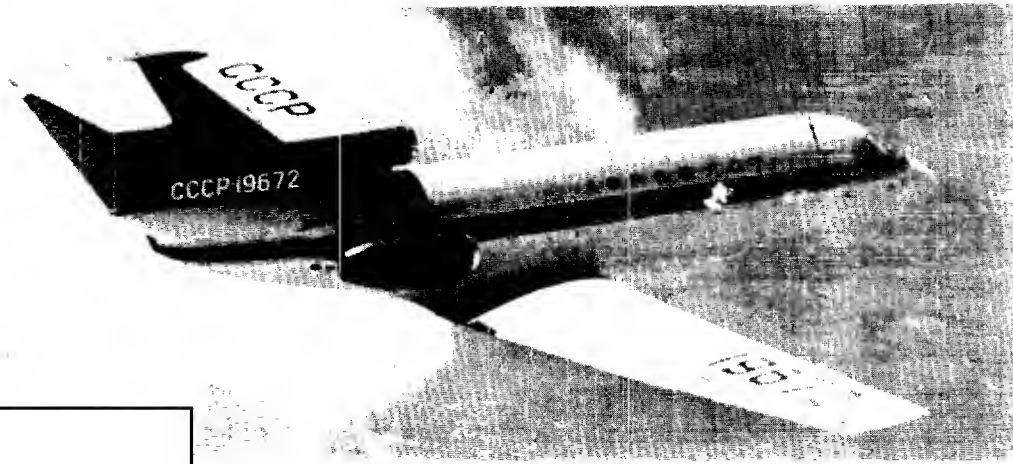
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Soviet YAK-40

652352 12-71 CIA

Passengers 24-40
Payload 4,175 lbs
Range (with normal payload) ... 820 nm
Speed (average cruise) 265 kts

COLOMBIA-USSR: A joint company to assemble the YAK-40 aircraft in Colombia may soon be established as part of the USSR's as yet unsuccessful effort to sell this plane in the West.

In mid-December the Colombian Government granted the Soviet trade mission in Bogota permission to ship and assemble a YAK-40, which is expected in Colombia by the end of this year. Six Soviet technicians will arrive in early January for a month's stay.

Over the past several years the Soviets have attempted to sell this aircraft in Colombia and other nations in Latin America and Western Europe. A single aircraft was delivered to a small Italian airline more than a year ago, but Rome has not granted it a certification of airworthiness. A West German firm reportedly has a license to sell the YAK-40 in Germany and Austria, but none have been sold because of the certification problem.

[REDACTED] If there is sufficient interest in the aircraft an assembly plant reportedly will be set up in Colombia. Although the Colombian civil air system is extensive and sophisticated, one of the major problems will be to train technicians to operate the plant.

Much of Colombia's short-haul fleet is obsolete and must soon be replaced. The YAK, a three-jet light transport, is a versatile aircraft but its operating costs are higher than comparable western aircraft. In addition, spare parts replacements and servicing may be difficult. Nevertheless, Colombia has more than a \$12-million trade surplus with the USSR and President Pastrana reportedly is interested in the deal.

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YEMEN (ADEN)-YEMEN (SANA)-USSR: The priority Moscow attaches to its relations with Aden was reflected in the results of recent visits by delegations of the two Yemeni regimes.

Aden reportedly will receive an unspecified number of patrol-type naval craft, helicopters, and medium tanks. This equipment is in addition to the [redacted] MIG-17 jet fighters, armored personnel carriers, reconnaissance vehicles, field and anti-aircraft artillery, and other ground forces equipment recently delivered [redacted]

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[redacted] The Soviets are eager to preserve their access to the refueling facilities at Aden for commercial and naval ships as well as to counter growing Chinese influence in the country.

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The visit to Moscow by Sana's President Iryani and Prime Minister al-Ayni apparently resulted in little more than agreement to move ahead on existing economic aid projects. No mention was made of additional military assistance in the communiqué issued following the talks, but Iryani has claimed that Moscow agreed to provide "some" military aid. It is likely to amount to little more than spare parts for Sana's armed forces, which are largely equipped with Soviet arms.

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